

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Conditions in Ch'ongjin, North Korea	DATE DISTR.	D March 1955
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

50X1-HUM

Electric Power

1. Electric power installations in Ch'ongjin were less seriously damaged than in other towns. A high-tension line in perfect condition and extending in a northerly direction is visible over the hills overlooking the town. The electric power lines which were damaged have in many cases received makeshift installations.<sup>1</sup> Electric lighting is installed everywhere and operates normally, with residents permitted to use electric lights in their homes. In this field real progress has been made.<sup>2</sup> However, street lighting is practically nonexistent, and at night the complete darkness makes it necessary for one to carry a flashlight. During the winter there is a restriction on electricity on Sundays from 0700 to 1800 hours. Power breakdowns are frequent in wind and snow storms.

Water Supply

2. Water is obtained only from wells and from a few conduit installations which were saved from destruction. In many areas water faucets have been installed in the vicinity of residential homes, but this water must be used for household consumption only. Laundering must be done on the seashore or on the drainage canal.

Coal

3. Four coal dumps of moderate importance have been located; one at the railroad station for the use of locomotives, one near the primary schools in the radio station tower area, another at the prison in the Eastern Harbor (Fishing Harbor) quarter, and the fourth in an underground locale along the main road to the Eastern Harbor. The quantity of coal issued to the civilian population is apparently very limited, for each family received only one or two sacks at a time. The only reserves around the homes are coal heaps sufficient for 2 or 3 days' heating.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

STATE	EV	ARMY	EV	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	AEC	ORR	EV	X		
	X													

(NOTE. Mainland distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

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- 2 -

Lumber

4. Several sawmills are in full operation, producing mainly planks for reconstruction; and some firewood, from scraps. In preparation for the winter many people, mostly aged, go to the hills to pick up small dry branches.

Food Supply

5. The people's food supply consists mainly of rice, sorghum, barley, soya beans, fish, eggs, carrots, turnip-rooted celery, cabbage, potatoes in limited quantities, and lettuce. Fish, which is offered in generally sufficient quantities, is priced within the means of all and is well liked. Fruits include apples and pears. Fresh meat is expensive, and its consumption is limited.<sup>3</sup> Harvested rice is stored in two large depots guarded by North Korean troops. One depot is located in a building on the principal highway in the area of the Central Harbor (western part) and the other is near the railroad station not far from Western Harbor. Distribution is made through the two markets in Ch'ongjin, the ration per person being about two bowls of rice daily in addition to a sufficient quantity of barley.
6. The North Korean Army has accumulated reserves of lettuce, carrots, potatoes, celery and fodder in the caves southeast of the town and in underground spaces by the seaside. Every day there is a constant movement back and forth of North Korean soldiers on the road to the quarantine station, but it has not been possible to determine their activities or destination. These soldiers never carry weapons, tools or packs. A few trucks have been seen coming to this area, but no materiel was observed being transported.

Fertilizer

7. Natural fertilizer composed of sediment and ashes is insufficient to replace the nitrogen and phosphates which the Korean soil lacks because of intensive cultivation. One of the fertilizers used is ammonium sulphate, which is adapted to all crops. This fertilizer is not expensive and is well known to all Korean farmers. Another fertilizer used is probably "calcium cyanamide, alkaline plant (sic)"<sup>4</sup> which is essential because of the acidity of the Korean soil, according to a local resident. The quantity of fertilizer received depends on the size of the area cultivated. If the farmer cannot pay cash, he must pay with produce. There are several indications (packing, marking, etc.) that these fertilizers come from Russia.

S-E-C-R-E-T

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50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

- 3 -

Prices

8. Prices of various articles in Ch'ongjin are as follows: [redacted] 50X1-HUM

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price in hwan</u>
Airplane, small toy	120
Apples, per kilogram	120
Basket ball	700
Belt, leather, ordinary	220
Cigarettes, Korean (blue or gray-white paper)	30
Cigarettes, Chinese	50
Eggs	18 <sup>5</sup>
Erasers	5-10
Hose, cotton	100-300
Inkwells	90
Jacket, Soviet-made, leather	8,800
Jacket, Soviet-made, child's, rabbit fur	6,000
Jacket, used, cloth	2,950
Lamp, electric, bulb	350
Notebook, school	20
Outercoat, ordinary, new	8,000 (approx.)
Pants, ordinary	2,400
Pencils	10-20
Rope, skipping	350
Shoes, canvas (Japanese style)	300-500
Shoes, leather (men's and women's)	1500-2800
Silk, North Korean	680-1600
Silk, Chinese	1500-1800
Soap (made in China or North Korea)	200
Stockings, silk, Soviet-made	350
Suit, man's	1,200
Undergarments, women's, silk	1,100

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

- 4 -

Schools

9. A primary school and a high school are located behind the hill on which the radio station tower stands. Another primary school is located in the Ch'ongnam-dong quarter, and the middle school is east of the city, near the road to Eastern Harbor. Since space is scarce in the school rooms, many children, especially those in the primary grades, attend from 1000 to 1330 hours only. Those from families who have taken refuge in the hills overlooking the sea have to walk more than 3 hours daily, Monday through Saturday. Because of the shortage of school bags, many wrap their books and notebooks in handkerchiefs or other cloth.

Postal and Telephone Service

10. Ch'ongjin has one post office, which is located at the main market square and is staffed with approximately 12 people plus several mail carriers. It accepts only letters, and payments by check. A letter for Switzerland costs 145 kwan for air mail and 20 hwan for sea mail. Registered mail is unknown.<sup>6</sup> The postage stamps have poor designs, are printed on poor quality paper, and are not gummed.<sup>7</sup> Postal cards, which are often sold out, carry propaganda slogans and cost 10 hwan each. Ch'ongjin has telephone service, and there is a private booth at the post office.

Clothing

11. There is a considerable lack of clothing in Ch'ongjin. Residents wear only worn-out, repaired or patched-up garments, both on weekdays and on Sundays. Some wear rags, and a tremendous number go about in torn clothes. Women and girls, although poorly dressed, seem to be better dressed than men, but there are extremely few families who have a sufficient wardrobe of new or excellent-quality clothes. Children are almost always dressed in coats and other garments far too large or unsuitable, although immediately after the first 1954 snowfall they emerged from houses wearing padded cotton garments in perfect condition.

Sanitary Conditions and Medical Facilities

12. Sanitary conditions appear normal despite the shortage of sanitary installations. There is almost a total lack of hygiene among the majority of the population. However, all measures are taken to avoid epidemics and lime and chlorine are distributed everywhere by North Korean troops, under the control and direction of Chinese Communist Forces physicians. The troops appear to enjoy good health, as do the children, including those who come from the hills overlooking the sea to attend school in Ch'ongjin. The Czechoslovakian hospital is greatly appreciated and receives many patients.<sup>9</sup> The Czechs are very popular, especially among the young people.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

- 5 -

Sundays

13. Ch'ongjin residents work 7 days a week. However, on Sundays activity slows down somewhat, North Korean troops have several hours of liberty, and the schools are closed. Women are seen doing their wash at the seashore and wearing their more becoming garments.

1. [redacted] Comment. The electric power lines must have been repaired quickly, since the people were content to put in these makeshift installations.

50X1-HUM

[redacted] Comments:

2. [redacted] in 1953 private homes and businesses in Ch'ongjin were allotted no power in order to conserve electricity; that it was distributed only to Government organizations and to the residences of staff members and employees of Government organizations.

3. [redacted]

4. Calcium cyanamide can be used as a fertilizer, but the meaning of the term "alkaline plant" cannot be determined.

5. [redacted] Comment. Presumably one egg is meant.

[redacted] Comments:

6. [redacted] in early 1953 registered mail facilities were seldom used in North Korea because of the strict censorship placed on that type of mail.

7. [redacted]

- [redacted] stamps are not gummed and that postal cards cost 10 hwan each.

8. [redacted]

9. According to the 8 October 1954 FBIS, Pyongyang Radio stated that Czechoslovakia has established a Red Cross hospital in Ch'ongjin with medical experts and supplies.

50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM